



CPEC

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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News Release

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State's Higher Education Planning Commission to Discuss Long-Term Budget Impacts

State Secretary of Education will address the Commission

SACRAMENTO — March 5, 2009 — The University of California, California State University and community colleges are all seeing increasing enrollment demand and smaller state allocations as a result of the recently passed state budget. The California Postsecondary Education Commission will discuss how the budget will affect higher education when it meets on Tuesday, March 10 in Sacramento.

The budget's impact will also be a focus of a Commission analysis on the nursing education crisis in California. Universities and colleges in California offer a variety of programs at different levels that qualify graduates to be registered nurses. This wide array of nursing programs raises many questions on the best way to meet California's need for nurses. Statewide planning can help assess the adequacy of the current mix of nursing programs, and how programs should be expanded to meet immediate workforce and health care needs with limited state funding.

At 11:00 a.m. Secretary of Education Glen W. Thomas will present his perspectives on issues facing higher education in California and the Governor's initiatives in this area.

Additionally, the Commission will discuss how students with disabilities are supported in higher education, the status of information and data available on financial aid, and revisions to the Commission's guidelines for approval of community college centers.

The Commission will also discuss staff work on developing an analytical model to assess student preparation for college. This model is designed to assess academic preparation, measured by a combination of factors, and how it relates to students' progress through the first two years of college, broken down by school and gender.

This will be the first meeting under the leadership of the Commission's new Executive Director, Karen Humphrey. Humphrey previously served as the administrator of the Commission's Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grant program, which provides competitive grants for teacher professional development to high-need school districts and higher education institutions.

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The public is welcome to attend the March 10 Commission meeting. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. at 770 L Street, Suite 1160, in Sacramento. The agenda is available at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/agnd0903.asp>. The agenda includes links to the staff reports that will be presented at the meeting.

The meeting will be audio-streamed live from the Commission's web site, www.cpec.ca.gov. Recordings of previous meetings are also accessible at www.cpec.ca.gov.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.